ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

FAREWELL 2018

RON CROSS
Commission Chairman

Ah, the last month of the year. Usually we are so busy this time of year that we have very little time to reflect on what actually happened in 2018. Was it a good year or was it routine; or did something happen that makes us glad it is finally over? One thing for sure, there were a lot of different things taking place in 2018.

Politics seemed to reach an all-time low with the contested national and state elections and hyper-sensitive rhetoric. Gee, you can't even call anyone a simple one or two syllable word without being accused of being another one or two syllable word. You have to have a really extensive vocabulary to insult someone in this politically correct atmosphere. What was really wrong with simply saying, "Your Mom wears combat boots!" Never heard that huh? You must be a millennial.

2018 was another great year in Columbia County. County Commission elections were held in their usual issue oriented way, and great progress was made in creating our "downtown" with the completion of the Meybohm Building in the Evans Towne Plaza. The Performing Arts Center is coming out of the ground with steel erection underway. Plans are being prepared for a new parking deck and additional buildings in The Plaza. The plans for the Justice Center addition and another parking deck are in progress. Several road and park projects are in the late planning or bid stage. 2018 has set the stage for an extremely busy 2019, and many improvements originating in 2017 and 2018 will be completed in 2019 and will be of great benefit to all citizens. 2018 saw the completion of the two largest road projects in county history; River Watch Parkway and the widening of Washington Road. Those two improvements alone would make for a good year.

Things happen so fast in Columbia County it is difficult to keep track unless you are involved with these improvements on a daily basis, and even then

it is not easy. It has been my pleasure to be a part of so many improvements in the last sixteen years. Some have been my idea; some have been others, but the majority have been a joint effort of commission, staff, and someone seeing a need and having the vision to look past today and saying "this is good, but it could be better". Columbia County is blessed with a lot of brain power and a lot of really good people. County administration, county staff, and citizen involvement is second to none.

Seriously, it is a great time to reflect. The official one day of Thanksgiving is over, but in reality, all of us in this country should be thankful every single day of the year. Black Friday has frayed our nerves and pocketbooks, and now we decide what to give our special ones for Christmas. Oh, yes Christmas! That commercial bonanza that attempts to hide the largest of the Christian celebrations; the birth of Jesus Christ. The majority of publicity will be of material things, but there is always that voice that comes through loud and clear: Remember the reason for the Season! That is the best advice of all, and hopefully we all will take that to heart in our year-end activities.

It is my year-end wish that we all will take a few moments each day during December to reflect on how very blessed we all are in this county, state, and nation. Very few people in the entire world will ever enjoy the things we take for granted each day. We owe a large debt of gratitude to our forefathers and to those who have served our country to preserve our liberties and way of life.

Merry Christmas and a Happy Prosperous New Year!!!

Merry Christmas and happy new year

FLOOD **PROTECTION**

KNOW YOUR FLOOD HAZARD
INSURE YOUR PROPERTY

Information is available on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), flood zones, flood insurance, elevation certificates, floodway data, approx. depth of flooding, natural floodplain functions, wetland data and other related items.

Columbia County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which dictates minimum standards to be adopted and enforced at the local government level. If you don't have flood insurance, talk to your insurance agent. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. However, because Columbia County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, you can purchase a separate flood insurance policy. This information is backed by the Federal Government and is available to everyone, even for properties that have flooded.

Flood maps and flood protection references are available at the Public Library and the Engineering and Environmental Services Department in Building A of the Columbia County Government Complex OR you can contact Connie Smith at (706) 312-7247 or clsmith@columbiacountyga.gov to use this free service.

COLUMBIA COUNTY ORCHESTRA
UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2018
Christmas POPS Concert
7 PM at Hardin Auditorium of the Evans, GA
Columbia County Library

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL PERFORMANCES.
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL OF THESE EVENTS, PLEASE GO TO WWW.COLUMBIACCO.ORG
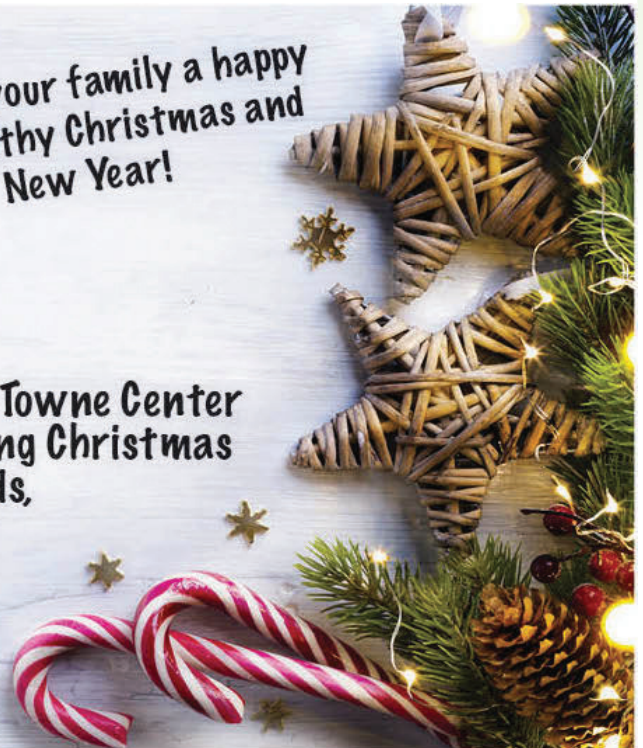

CHRISTMAS IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Wishing your family a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year!

December 1-January 1
Walk through the Christmas lights at Evans Towne Center Park, ice skate in front of the magical dancing Christmas Tree, have a scavenger hunt with your friends, write letters to Santa, and MUCH MORE!

Visit evanstownecenterpark.com for more information

Adult Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library

English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes
Tuesdays • 10:30 am-12:00 pm
Classes are free and open to adults whose first language is not English. There will be no class on December 25.

Local Author Group Therapy
Sunday, December 2 • 2:30-4:30 pm
Join us to network and learn from speakers' lessons in publishing.

Doodle Hour-Adult Coloring
Mon, Dec 3 • 6:30 pm & Wed, Dec 5 • 12:00 pm
Coloring books are perfect for stressed out adults. You've seen the trend, now try it!

VA Benefits for Long Term Care
Wednesday, December 5 • 11:00 am
The Department of Veterans Affairs provides tax free monetary benefits to eligible veterans and widow(er)s of veterans who are spending money out of pocket for medical expenses. Learn about the update to the new VA eligibility rules, and estate planning and elder care planning. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Adult Walk-In Guitar Lessons
Thursdays, December 6 & 20 • 4:00 pm
Always wanted to play guitar? Come for free basic lessons for adults every first and third Thursday from 4:00 to 5:00. No registration necessary. Call 706-447-7667 for more info.

Fiber Arts Craft & Chat
Thursday, December 6 & 20 • 5:30-7:30 pm
This group meets the first and third Thursday of each month in the café area and is open to all crafters: crochet, knit, loom, cross stitch, etc. This low-key crafting meet-up is open to people who want to learn as well as those already crafty.

Adult Guitar Club
Thursdays, December 6 & 20 • 6:00-7:30 pm
Experienced adult players, this is a chance to get together with other adult guitar players to swap tips and songs.

Genealogy Club
Monday, December 10 • 3:00 pm
Whether you're a genealogical expert or just learning about your roots, this is the group for you.

Pub Fiction Book Club
Monday, December 10 • 7:00 pm • Pizza Central, Evans
Join us at Pizza Central in Evans for this month's book selection: *The Deal of a Lifetime* by Fredrik Backman.

Bookkeeping, Payroll & Business Financial Seminar
Wednesday, December 12 • 12:00-2:00 pm
A bookkeeping, payroll and business finance seminar is being presented by Tabitha Hollimon, MBA, EA and owner of Avail Bookkeeping and Tax Services. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Holiday Blues
Thursday, December 13 • 6:00 pm
Overcoming the "Holiday Blues," a guide for the season with Stephanie Nichols, LCSW. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Estate Planning & Elder Care
Friday, December 14 • 11:00 am
Hear legal strategies to protect your family and estate including: wills & trusts, estate planning, probate avoidance, powers of attorney, Medicaid and VA planning as well as the VA Aid & Attendance Benefit. Burroughs + Elijah hosts. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Camera I - Out of the Box
Wednesday, December 19 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Learn the basics of using a digital camera including "What is a Megapixel?," the different types of cameras and memory cards, and the basics of photography. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Camera II - Out of the Camera
Wednesday, December 19 • 1:30-3:30 pm
Import, edit, print, organize, and back-up photos to the computer. Have fun creating a photo collage with free photo editing software! Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Brown Bag Book Discussion Planning Party
Thursday, December 20 • 11:30 am-1:00 pm
Come and plan for 2019!

FirstOneStep07
Thursday, December 20 • 6:00 pm
Support group for new amputees and their family members to connect with others who have overcome similar challenges.

Camera III - Photo Editing & Printing
Friday, December 21 • 10:00 am-12:00 pm
Learn how to remove blemishes from your photos with free photo editing software, print gift items, and create virtual scrapbooks. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

eBay
Friday, December 21 • 1:30-3:30 pm
This online auction site class will walk you through the basics of both buying and selling on the site and how to fine tune to your personal needs. Call 706-863-1946, ext. 4 to register.

Gadget Help with Alex
Friday, December 28 • 3:00-5:00 pm
Drop by to get individual help with your electronic gadgets. First come, first serve; no appointment necessary.

Euchee Creek Library

Beginner Crochet
Wednesday, December 5 & 19 • 1:30 pm
Fun and informal. Supplies provided. No registration required.

Homestead Hospice
Thursday, December 6 • 11:00 am
Compassionate and informative class to help people facing end of life decisions. Please register for this event.

Sewing for Beginners
Thursday, December 6 • 1:30 pm
Scarf & hat set. Bring 1 yard of flannel. Registration required.

On The Same Page Bookclub Potluck
Thursday, December 13 • 10:30 am
Bring a dish to share and your book recommendations for 2019.

Columbia County Genealogical Society
Thursday, December 13 • 1:00 pm
Genealogy club for all ages. No registration required.

Adult Time Out
Thursday, December 20 • 11:00 am
Craft & Christmas Party. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Harlem Library

Doodle Hour
 Monday, December 3 • 2:00 pm
Join us for an enjoyable hour of coloring and relaxing!

ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND WILL CLOSE AT 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 AND BE CLOSED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1. BOOK DROPS WILL BE LOCKED TO PREVENT ANY OVERFILLING.

Adult Programs

Christmas Ornament Craft
Wednesday, December 5 • 1:00 pm
Join us for a fun Christmas Ornament Class. Must pre-register.

Open Sewing
Tuesdays, December 11 & 18 • 3:00 pm
Bring your projects and use our machines to finish them!
Registration required.

Crochet Class
Thursday, December 13 & 27 • 10:30 am
Join us for a fun hour of crocheting! This class is in 2 sessions,
and you must register for both.

Bingo for Books
Friday, December 14 • 10:00 am
Join us for Bingo, prizes, and refreshments! Registration required.

Harlem Book Club
Thursday, December 20 • 4:00 pm
Come join us for our book selection party! We will be selecting
our books to read for 2019!

Genealogy Class- Military Records
Wednesday, December 19 • 3:30 pm
Join us to learn how to research your family history. This class will
focus on searching for military records. Registration required.

Teen Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library

Young Makers Program
Monday, December 3 • 4:00-5:30 pm
This Makerspace program is geared especially for children ages
8-12. Kids will learn about science, engineering, and design with
hands-on experiences.

Otaku-Rabu Club
Tuesday, December 4 • 5:00-6:30 pm
Join us for a screening of this season's most popular anime! This
month's selection is *Zombieland Saga*.

Magical Crafternoon
Wednesday, December 5 • 3:30-5:00 pm
Join us to start on a Harry Potter themed embroidery project
you can take with you and finish during winter reading. Not into
embroidery? We'll also be making shrinky-dink crafts!

Beginner's Guitar Class
Tuesday, December 11 • 4:00 pm
This guitar class is for ages 11-18. If you do not have your own
guitar, we have up to 6 guitars for class use. Registered students
can drop in any time from 4:00-5:00 pm for instruction. Call 706-
863-1946 ext 4 to register.

Makerspace
Monday, December 17 & Thursday, December 27 • 4:00-5:30 pm
Teens 13-18 will work on their own projects under staff guidance
while using library equipment including CAD software,
development software, a 3D scanner, a 3D printer, soldering
equipment, and general electronics tools.

Beginner Coding Class
Tuesday, December 18 • 4:00 pm
We will be teaching the basics of coding in Java. Call 706-863-1946
ext 4 to register.

Magical Sweets and Treats
Thursday, December 20 • 2:00 pm
Join us to make magical candy creations. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to
register.

Teen Advisory Board
Thursday, December 27 • 4:00 pm
Help us decide what programs to offer this year while getting
volunteer credit.

Euchee Creek Library

Teen Christmas Party
Saturday, December 1 • 12:30 pm
Book Swap! White elephant exchange! Secret Craft! Cookies!

Anime Club
Monday, December 17 • 4:30 pm
Showing popular anime. No registration required.

Winter Reading Events for Teens & Adults

Columbia County/Evans Library

Harry Potter Party
Tuesday, December 4 • 6:00 pm
You're invited to a night of magic and fun, including snacks,
trivia, games, crafts, and more!

Magical Crafternoon
Wednesday, December 5 • 3:30-5:00 pm
Join us to start on a Harry Potter themed embroidery project
you can take with you and finish during winter reading. Not into
embroidery? We'll also be making shrinky-dink crafts!

Magical Sweets and Treats
Thursday, December 20 • 2:00 pm
Join us to make magical candy creations. Call 706-863-1946 ext 4 to
register.

**ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND WILL CLOSE AT 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 AND BE CLOSED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1.
BOOK DROPS WILL BE LOCKED TO PREVENT ANY OVERFILLING.**

Children's & Family Programs

Columbia County/Evans Library

Call 706-863-1946 ext 3 for information or to register for children's programs.

Harry Potter Party
Tuesday, December 4 • 6:00 pm
You're invited to a night of magic and fun, including snacks, trivia, games, crafts, and more!

Baby Keepsakes
Thursday, December 13 • 10:30 am
Join us for a keepsake- and sensory toy-making workshop for babies! Appropriate for ages 2 and under.

Morris Museum
Monday, December 17 • 11:00 am
Join us for a craft and stories!

Family Movie Night
Tuesday, December 18 • 5:30 pm
Watch *The Star* on the big screen in Hardin Auditorium.

Magical Make and Bake
Thursday, December 20 • 2:00 pm
Join us for this magical make and bake featuring a Harry Potter favorite - pumpkin pasties! These pumpkin-spiced hand pies make a perfect winter treat. Kids ages 4-10 will get to prepare their own pumpkin pasties to be baked in our cafe's oven. Call 706-863-1946 ext 3 to register.

Euchee Creek Library

Child Enrichment:
- **Baby & Me: Tues • 10:30 am**
- **Child Enrichment: Tues • 4:15 pm**
- **Child Enrichment: Weds •10:30 am**

Super Novas Club
Monday, December 3 • 4:30 pm
Magic Milk Experiments: We will be making plastic ornaments from milk!

STEM Talk
Friday, December 7 • 2:30 pm
Students are introduced to fractals by connecting art and nature to math without focusing upon numbers and equations. Material is tailored to the appropriate grade level. Please register for this event.

Minecraft Club
Saturday, December 8 • 11:00 am-1:00 pm
Bring your own device or laptop with Minecraft already loaded.

Family Movie Night
Monday, December 10 • 11:00 am-1:00 pm
This month's movie is *Show Dogs*. Light snacks and no registration required.

Starry Night Storytime
Monday, December 17 • 6:00 pm
Cozy evening storytime. Children are welcome to wear pajamas or bring blankets. No registration required.
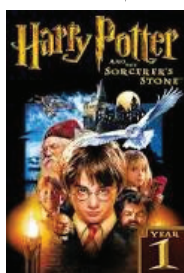
Harlem Library

Child Enrichment:
- **Tuesdays December 11 & 18 • 10:30 am**

Need more information? Contact your local branch:
- **Evans: 706-863-1946**
- **Euchee Creek: 706-556-0594**
- **Harlem: 706-650-5009**

Harry Potter Movie Series

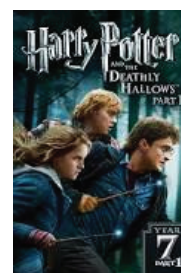**Every Thursday at 5:30 pm
Hardin Auditorium**

Thursday, Dec. 6 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 20 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, January 3 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, January 17 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 13 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, Dec. 27 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, January 10 • 5:30 pm

Thursday, January 24 • 5:30 pm

**ALL COLUMBIA COUNTY LIBRARIES WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22 THROUGH TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND WILL CLOSE AT 5 P.M. MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 AND BE CLOSED TUESDAY, JANUARY 1.
BOOK DROPS WILL BE LOCKED TO PREVENT ANY OVERFILLING.**

DAY WITH A DEPUTY 2018

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is currently making preparations to host the 16th Annual Day with a Deputy which will take place December 22, 2018.

Day with a Deputy 2017 was able to bring a smile to 50 local children. We are looking forward to doing the same for 2018.

The Day with a Deputy Program involves law enforcement officers from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, who donate their time to take a group of children Christmas shopping. The children are selected by referrals from the Columbia County School System. The program builds positive relationships between Deputies and the children of the community. It is a very positive experience not only for the kids that are involved, but also for the Deputies.

Financial and service donations from a variety of businesses and citizens allow children from Columbia County to enjoy breakfast and a day of holiday shopping with a Columbia County Sheriff's Deputy. Donations can be sent to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office at 2273 County Camp Road Appling, Georgia 30802-made payable to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office/Day with a Deputy.

AUGUSTA
SYMPHONY

Holiday Spectacular

Sunday, December 9

4:00 pm · Jabez S. Hardin PAC

Celebrate the holidays with your family at this one-hour concert featuring singer Joan Ellison with the Augusta Symphony!

AugustaSymphony.com · 706-842-4080

MASTER
www.masterautomotive.com

auben
aubenrealty.com

Bank of America

COLUMBIA COUNTY